

I Claim:

1. A method of forming object groups from a plurality of received objects, said method comprising for each received object the steps of:

5 passing data describing said received object to at least one detection scheme, each detection scheme having a priority and an associated object group type, and operative to detect whether said received object forms part of an object group of said associated object group type;

10 receiving notification from said at least one detection scheme of whether said received object forms part of said object group(s);

determining whether one or more of said object groups are completely formed, where at least partly formed object groups form a list; and

15 outputting for rendering a completely formed object group based on said priorities.

15

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said outputting step outputs said completely formed object group if said completely formed object group is the object group in said list of a type associated with the detection scheme with the highest priority.

20

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said object is passed to detection schemes having associated object group types where said received object is a potential member of an object group of said associated object group types, and detection schemes having object groups in said list.

25

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the further step of outputting for rendering received objects not forming part of said object groups.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the further step of outputting for rendering previously received objects that were forming part of one or

more object groups that have not been output, where at least one of the objects of said completely formed object groups has been output.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said previously received objects are output for rendering (i) individually or (ii) as a group, depending on an attribute of the detection scheme associated with the type of the object group of which said previously received objects form part.

7. A graphics rendering system for forming object groups from a plurality of received objects, said graphics rendering system comprising:

a plurality of detection schemes, each detection scheme having a priority and an associated object group type, and operative to detect whether an object forms part of an object group of said associated object group type;

a managing module for passing data describing a received object to at least one detection scheme, for receiving notification from said at least one detection scheme of whether said received object forms part of said object group(s), for determining whether one or more of said object groups are completely formed, where at least partly formed object groups form a list, and for passing a completely formed object group to a rendering module based on said priorities.

20

8. The graphics rendering system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said managing module passes said completely formed object group to said rendering module if said completely formed object group is the object group in said list of a type associated with the detection scheme with a highest priority.

25

9. The graphics rendering system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said object is passed to detection schemes having associated object group types where said received object is a potential member of an object group of said associated object group types, and detection schemes having associated object groups in said list.

30

10. The graphics rendering system as claimed in claim 7 wherein said managing module further passes received objects not forming part of said object groups to said rendering module.

5 11. The graphics rendering system as claimed in claim 7 wherein said managing module further passes previously received objects to said rendering module, wherein said previously received objects were forming part of one or more object groups that have not been rendered, and at least one of the objects of said completely formed object groups has been rendered.

10

12. The graphics rendering system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said previously received objects are passed to said rendering module (i) individually or (ii) as a group, depending on an attribute of the detection scheme associated with the type of the object group of which said previously received objects form part.

15

13. A computer program product including a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for forming object groups from a plurality of received objects, said computer program for each received object comprising:

20 code for passing data describing said received object to at least one detection scheme, each detection scheme having a priority and an associated object group type, and operative to detect whether said received object forms part an object group of said associated object group type;

code for receiving notification from said at least one detection scheme of whether said received object forms part of said object group(s);

25 code for determining whether one or more of said associated object groups are completely formed where at least partly formed object groups form a list; and

code for outputting for rendering a completely formed object group based on said priorities.

14. The computer program product as claimed in claim 13, wherein said code for outputting outputs said completely formed object group if said completely formed object group is the object group in said list of a type associated with the detection scheme with a highest priority.